## IX. *A Deſcription of a curious Sea-Plant*; Frutex *marinus* Flabelliformis *cortice verrucoſo obductus.* Doodii. *Raii* Hiſt. *Tom.* III. *p.* 7. *et Synopſ. Edit.* 3. *p.* 32. Coralloides *granuloſa alba. J. B. Tom.* III. *pag.* 809. Erica *marina alba fruteſcens. Muſ.* Pet. 50. Keratophyton *Flabelliforme, cortice verrucoſo obductum.* Raii *Syn. Edit.* 3 *p.* 32. *By Sir* Hans Sloane, *Bart. M. D. late* Preſident *of the Royal Society, and of the* College *of* Phyſicians, London, *&c.*

*Read* Feb. 6. 1745-6.

KING *Charles* the Second, who was a very curious and great Obſerver of Natural Productions of all Kinds, the Founder and Patron of the *Royal Society*, and great Encourager of ſeveral Members thereof, had got, in his Cloſet at *Whitehall*, this Coralline (as I call it); which, I ſuppoſe, had been preſented to him by ſome of his Sea-Officers, appointed to cruiſe in the Soundings, lying off the Weſt of *England*, towards the *Atlantic* Ocean. I have had it from thence intire, and in Perfection, from ſome of the late Commanders on that Station (of which I here give an intire Figure when young, TAB. II. *Fig.* 1.), who, by their ſounding Lines, brought it up from the Rocks at the Bottom of the Sea; and which being a very curious Coralline, I wonder it has been ſo little taken notice of.

It riſes to four Feet high, from a woody Baſis, near an Inch Diameter, giving it a firm Foundation on the Rocks in the Bottom of the Sea, ſpreading out its Branches like a Fan, the Subſtance or inner Part of which is woody, of a light brown, or blackiſh Colour (as at *a*, *b*, Fig. 1.), covered all over with a thin tuberculated Cruſt, of an Aſh-colour, or ſometimes yellowiſh, ſeldom joined together, as the *Rete Marinum*, but looſe, and diſtorted; and not ſtrait, as moſt of this kind.

I have had it from *Tangier*, *Antigua*, and *Newfoundland*; from which laſt Place, one with the *Stella arboreſcens* Rondeletii, *p.* 121. (mentioned by Mr. *Winthorp*, in theſe *Tranſactions*, N°. 57. *p.* 1152.) having its Branches faſtened ſeveral times round thoſe of this Coralline; a Branch of which is here figured, with the Animal ſticking to it, at *Fig.* 2. in *which a* is the Mouth, and *Fig.* 3. repreſents the back Part of it, having a Crack in it by ſome Accident. The fineſt of this Kind was given me by her late Grace *Mary* Ducheſs of *Beaufort*; who told me, ſhe had it preſented to her by the late Colonel *Codrington*, Proprietor of the Iſland of *Barbuda*; from whence in all Likelihood he had it.

I do not pretend to give a new Name to this Coralline, to make Confuſion; but only mention ſuch Authors, as have already taken notice of it; of whom *John Bauhin* is the firſt that deſcribes it plainly, both by Words, and an imperfect Figure of a ſmall Piece or Branch, which he had communicated to him by a Perſon whom he does not name, by reaſon (as I ſuppoſe) he had by Stealth broke it off a large Branch, kept in what he calls *Theatrum Naturalium Sereniſſimæ Reginæ Angliæ*; whom I ſuppoſe to be

Queen

Queen *Elizabeth*; and which, to my Knowlege, is too much practiſed ſince by unworthy Perſons.

It is likely, that many of the coralline Subſtances mention'd by Authors, may be this, or Parts of it, the Cruſt being rubb'd off more or leſs, and its Colour changed, and thereby deſcribed for different Corallines.

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## X. *Extracts of Two Letters from the Reverend* Henry Miles, *D. D. & F. R. S. to Mr.* Henry Baker, *F. R. S. containing ſeveral* Electrical Experiments.

### I.

*Dear Sir,*

*Read* Feb. 13. 1745-6. I AM under no Doubt, but that Experiments with Sulphur are capable of being improv'd, and hope ſhortly to make is appear. I am loth to venture my glaſs Tubes of Flint for a Mould, but intend to procure one of common Glaſs; having lately had the Misfortune of loſing my beſt, in ſo odd a Manner, that I believe you will excuſe me if I trouble you with the Account.

I had been uſing it but a little Time in the Evening; and, before I laid it up, having by me a round Ruler ſmall enough to go into the Bore, when it was cover'd with a Roll or two of brown Paper, it came into my Head to excite it, by rubbing it a little on the Inſide with the ſaid Ruler and Paper; but not finding any Effect of it, after a few Minutes Trial, not ſo much as to attract the ſmalleſt Thread, I laid it in my Window in my Study on a Parcel of

*Fig. 1. p. 51.*

*Fig. 2. p. 52.*

*Fig. 3. p. 52.*

*G. D. Ehret pinx.* *T. Hynde, sc.*